

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Application in light of the Final Office Action mailed April 19, 2006 and the Advisory Office Action mailed August 17, 2006. Applicants amend Claims 1, 9, 16, and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer. The amendments to these claims are not the result of any prior art reference and, thus, do not narrow the scope of any of the claims. Furthermore, the amendments are not related to patentability issues and only further clarify subject matter already present. Applicants have amended the claims only in order to advance prosecution in this case. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims and favorable action in this case.

Section 102 Rejection

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-2, 4, 7, 9-11, 14, 16-18, 21, 23-25, 27, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2004/0028060 issued to Kang (hereinafter “*Kang*”).

Applicants first remind the Examiner of the well-settled principle that “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987). *See also* MPEP § 2131. Furthermore, “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Applicants have amended Independent Claims 1, 9, 16, and 23 to overcome the Examiner’s rejection. *Kang* does not teach or suggest exchanging incremental state information when a sequence number changes. Rather, *Kang* only teaches “flooding” a network with the state of a link between a first and second node. Figure 7 and the appurtenant text of *Kang* clearly indicate that this flooding includes the complete state of the link - not incremental state information. (*See, e.g.*, paragraph 0082.) The *Kang* method may result in reduced overhead, but the mechanism is entirely different. Thus, *Kang* does not disclose, either expressly or inherently, each and every element as set forth in the independent claims. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 9, 16, 23, and their dependents should be allowed over *Kang*.

Section 103 Rejection

The Examiner rejects Claims 5-6, 8, 12-13, 15, 19-20, 22, 26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kang* in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0067924 issued to Choe et al. (hereinafter “*Choe*”).

Applicants believe that these rejections are moot in light of the amendments and remarks made above.

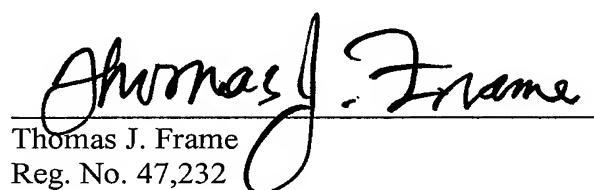
CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for all other reasons clear and apparent, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the \$790.00 to satisfy the fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) and the \$120.00 one month extension of time fee and any other required fees or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTTS L.L.P.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to advance prosecution of this application, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact Thomas J. Frame at 214.953.6675.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 8/28/00

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